

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 06/09/2011 has been entered.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claims in the instant application have not been rejected using prior art because no references or reasonable combination thereof, could be found which disclose, or suggest, a spinal fixation system as set forth in claims 1, 13, 21, 30 that has camming surfaces on the bottom of the cam lock member.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to STUART S. BRAY whose telephone number is (571)270-7648. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, ***please contact the examiner's supervisor, Eduardo C. Robert, at 571-272-4719.*** The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

If there are any inquiries that are not being addressed by first contacting the Examiner or the Supervisor, you may send an email inquiry to
TC3700_Workgroup_D_Inquiries@uspto.gov.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/STUART S BRAY/
Examiner, Art Unit 3733

/TODD E. MANAHAN/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3776